



STATE OF THE PARTIES: 2024 AND BEYOND
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025

7:30 a.m. – CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Hilton Garden Inn, 1307 E. Market Street, Akron, OH 44305

8:30 – 10:15 a.m. – STATE OF THE PARTIES

Moderator: **John Green**, The University of Akron

The Evolution of a Party System: Four Stops on the Road to 2025

Byron Shafer, University of Wisconsin, and **Regina Wagner**, University of Alabama

Evaluating American Democracy in 2025 through the Lense of Ranney and Kendall

Rick Farmer, Southern Nazarene University, and **Christopher H. Owen**, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah

What do Party Elites Think about Election Reform?

Robert Boatright, Clark University, **Karen Sebold**, University of Arkansas, **Eric Heberlig**, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, **Caroline J. Tolbert** and **Sami DeRagon**, University of Iowa

10:15 a.m. - BREAK

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. - PARTY FACTIONS

Moderator: **Cherie Strachan**, The University of Akron

Factions among Major Party Elites

Geoff Layman, Notre Dame University, **John Green**, The University of Akron, and **Shay Hafner**, University of Notre Dame

Feeble Gatekeepers: Factional Insurgency and the Toppling of the Grand Old Party

Zachary Albert, Brandeis University, and **Raymond J. La Raja**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Insurgent and Consociational Factions and the Prospects for the Democratic Party

Ronald B. Rapoport, College of William and Mary, and **Andrew Engelhardt**, SUNY-Stony Brook

Factions and Parties in a Polarized Era

Michael Ensley and **Zach Morris**, Kent State University

12:15 – 1:15 p.m. – Lunch

1:15 – 3:30 p.m. – STATE AND LOCAL PARTY POLITICS

Moderator: **David Cohen**, The University of Akron

Coalition Change or Pocketbook Election? Evidence from Nevada in 2024

Kenneth M. Miller, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

What Happened to the “Blue Wall”? The Partisan Makeup of Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, 1992-2024

David A. Dulio, Oakland University, and **Stephen K. Medvic**, Franklin & Marshall College

Did the Democratic Party Abandon Rural America? Evidence from a Survey of Local Party Officials

Daniel M. Shea, Colby College

Shifting Allegiances: Trump and Muslim Voters in the 2024 Election

Daniel Hummel, University of Louisiana at Monroe

The Organizational Structure of State Parties

Doug Roscoe, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

State Democratic and Republican Political Party Chairs, 2015-2024

Matthew J. Geras, University of Illinois Springfield

InfoCision Stadium, Level 5 (University of Akron Campus)

375 East Exchange Street

The shuttle to InfoCision Stadium begins at 5:20 p.m. and will return to the hotel after the event. If you miss the shuttle, please call Kim Haverkamp at 330-715-0712.

5:30 p.m. – Reception

6:30 p.m. – Dinner

Keynote Address immediately following dinner

Myth-Busting the Rural Voter: What Data Shows

Daniel M. Shea, Colby College



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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025

7:30 a.m. – CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Hilton Garden Inn, 1307 E. Market Street, Akron, OH 44305

CONCURRENT PANELS – Please choose one of the following:

8:15 – 10:00 a.m. – PARTY RESOURCES

Moderator: **Daniel Shea**, Colby College

Political Party Contacting in the 2024 Election

Brian J. Brox, Tulane University

Carpetbag Campaigning: How Parties Reshape Democracy by Redirecting Resources to Competitive Districts

Hans Noel, Georgetown University

The Trump Donor 2015-2024: Assessing the Geographical Differences Across Different Elections

Andrew Dowdle, **Joshua Mitchell**, and **Karen Sebold**, University of Arkansas

The Impact of Organizational Characteristics on Super PAC Spending in Congressional Elections

Paul Herrnson, University of Connecticut, and **Jay Goodliffe**, Brigham Young University

8:15 – 10:00 a.m. – PARTY CONSTITUENCIES

Moderator: **Rick Farmer**, Southern Nazarene University

Diploma Divide, Rural Revolt, or Racial Realignment? Working-Class Partisanship in the Trump Era

Michael E. Shepherd, University of Michigan

The Polarized Type: Affective Polarization and Issue Polarization Among the Party-In-The-Electorate

Jeremiah J. Castle, Metropolitan State University of Denver, **J. Cherie Strachan**, The University of Akron, and **Kyla K. Stepp**, Central Michigan University

House Party: Patterns of Inter-generational Party Transmission

Daniel A. Smith, **Olivia Zhang**, **Joselie Charles**, **Lara Adams**, **Samantha Cuenot**, and **Yugo Wang**, University of Florida

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. – BREAK

CONCURRENT PANELS – Please choose one of the following:

10:30 – 12:00 p.m. – PARTY NOMINATIONS

Moderator: **John Green**, The University of Akron

Party Asymmetry in Competition in Presidential Nominations

Caitlin E. Jewitt, Virginia Tech, and **Gregory Shufeldt**, University of Indianapolis

A Rent-Seeking Theory of Political Parties

Wayne Steger, DePaul University

Differing Voter Criteria and Primary Polarization

Barry C. Burden and **Matthew Kim**, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Democratic Party Members Abroad Respond to Electoral Losses: Withdrawal without Retreat

James A. McCann, Purdue University, and **Ronald B. Rapoport**, College of William & Mary

10:30 – 12:00 p.m. – MAJOR PARTY ALTERNATIVES

Moderator: **Kenneth Miller**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Third Parties and the Future of U.S. Democracy: Examining 2024 Within a Historical Framework

Bernard Tamas, Valdosta State University

Does Partisanship Matter? Adoption and Implementation of RCV in Red and Blue Jurisdictions

Jay Wendland, Daemen University

Partisan Polarization and Menstrual Equity Policies in U.S. State Legislatures

Sara Chatfield, University of Denver

Legislative Supermajorities and Direct Democracy: What is the Relationship Between Supermajority Legislatures and Citizen-Led Initiatives?

Reynold F. Nesiba, Augustana University

12:00 – 2:00 p.m. – Lunch Speaker

The Future of American Political Parties

Elaine Kamarck, Center for Effective Public Management, Brookings